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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7205

BILL NUMBER: HB 1582

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 17, 2009

BILL AMENDED: Feb 17, 2009

SUBJECT: School Counselors.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Porter

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: *(Amended) School Intervention and Career Counseling Development Program:* This bill increases maximum allowable grant amounts awarded from the school intervention or career counseling development fund.

School Elementary Counselors, School Social Workers, and Schools Psychologists Program: The bill specifies target counselor - student ratios to be used for the hiring of school counselors, social workers, and psychologists with grant money.

School Counselor License: The bill requires the Department of Education in cooperation with other appropriate associations to develop a uniform job description for school counselors. It requires individuals seeking initial licensure for school counseling to provide evidence of performance in certain areas.

The bill makes a technical correction.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *(Revised) School Intervention and Career Counseling Development Program* The bill modifies the School Intervention and Career Counseling Development Program to provide funding for school k-6 counselors of \$25,000 per counselor with a limit of the school grant based on the size of the school corporation. (The programs currently provides a grant of \$15,000 for each k-6 counselor subject to corporation maximums). The new maximum grants are \$85,000 if the school has less than 5,000 students (current level is \$75,000), \$130,000 if the school has less than 10,000 students (current level is \$120,000), and \$190,000 if school has more than 10,000 students (current level is \$180,000). The impact would be to

increase the potential grants by about \$4.9 M, from \$17.8 M to \$22.7 M. The Department receives about \$104,000 annually from the education license plate and had spent \$90,000 in the first six months of FY 2009 on grants. The balance in the fund is about \$323,779. Grants are restricted to funds available.

School Elementary Counselors, School Social Workers, and Schools Psychologists Program: The bill specifies the staffing ratios goals for the School Elementary Counselors, School Social Workers, and Schools Psychologists Program. The bill would establish a standard of 250 students for each school counselor, 400 students for each social worker, and 1,000 students for each school psychologist. Based on the number of employees reported on the Department of Education's certified staff report about 2,317 additional counselors, 2,237 additional social workers, and 656 additional psychologists would be need by local schools. The estimated costs of the additional staff would be about \$214.6 M if all school were to meet these goals. The program is to be funded by grants from the Elementary School Counselors, Social Workers, and School Psychologists Fund. The current program was not funded during the 2008-2009 biennium.

This bill does not contain any appropriations for these funds.

School Counselor License: The Department of Education should be able to develop of a uniform job description for school counselors within their existing resources. The bill also does not allow the Department to issue a license in school counseling unless the person provides evidence of performance in:

1. Developmental guidance instruction.
2. Educational development.
3. Career development student assistance services.
4. Counseling strategies.
5. Prevention programming.
6. Crisis intervention leadership.
7. Advocacy for students.
8. Professional growth.

The bill could increase the cost of the Department to license counselors depending on the amount of performance data that has to be reviewed. The additional work would be done within existing resources.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *See Explanation of State Expenditures:*

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: Local Schools.

Information Sources: Department of Education databases.

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